



American
Public Health
Association



APHA PHACT Campaign

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION CAMPAIGN



The State of Public Health in Hawaii

Years of flat funding and budget cuts to vital public health agencies and programs at both the federal and state levels have taken their toll on Hawaii and the nation as a whole, complicating public health efforts. Additional resources are needed to adequately support improving access to care, controlling diseases, eliminating health disparities, and other public health activities. Make public health a priority this year and help us move towards developing a healthy society.

The Facts:

- **Public Health Funding:** Hawaii spends an average of \$152.66 a year for the public health needs of each resident, the highest amount in the nation. Total public health spending in Hawaii, including federal sources such as money from HRSA and CDC, amounts to an average of \$499 per person, also the highest amount in the nation.
- **The Positives:** High funding levels have allowed Hawaii to excel in many areas of public health. Hawaii has the lowest number of preventable hospitalizations in the nation (32.2 per 1,000 Medicare enrollees), the 2nd lowest percent of uninsured residents (8.8 percent) and the 4th lowest percent of adult smokers (17.3 percent).
- **The Road Ahead:** Even though Hawaii leads the nation in many areas of public health, there are nevertheless several areas that need improvement. 17.5 percent of Hawaiians take part in binge drinking, one of the highest levels in the nation. Hawaii also has a high rate of infectious disease (21.5 cases per 100,000 people) and as many as one-third of pregnant women do not receive adequate prenatal care, the 5th worst rate in the nation.

Sources: United Health Foundation's State Snapshots; Trust for America's Health, *The State of Your Health Report*, 2008 Edition.

In response to an informal electronic survey sent out to our membership and 53 state affiliates:

A Public Health Worker with the Hawaii State Department of Health noted, *"Currently, there is less involvement in community efforts due to less funding and staff. Further funding cuts or elimination of funding will deny the non-English and limited English speaking population of the state access to health care services- thus causing a public health concern."*

Another Public Health Worker from Honolulu, Hawaii told us: *"We rely on health care professionals who volunteer in our public and professional education programs. Since their organizations have been affected, they are less likely to have the time to work with us."*

Founded in 1872, APHA is the oldest, largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world. The association aims to protect all Americans and their communities from preventable, serious health threats and strives to assure community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities and preventive health services are universally accessible in the United States. www.apha.org.